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Docket No. 22750/350

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP ART UNIT 1733**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Peter PFEUFFER

Serial No.: 08/900,254

Filing Date: July 25, 1997

For: FILTER MATERIAL, METHOD
OF ITS MANUFACTURE, AND
APPARATUS FOR
MANUFACTURING A FILTER
MATERIAL

Group Art Unit: 1733

Examiner: Yao, S.

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DEC 03 2002
TC 1700

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: November 26, 2002

Reg. No. 31,792

Signature: _____

Richard M. Rosati

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

In response to the Final Office Action dated September 13, 2002, please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 without prejudice as follows:

1. (Three Times Amended) A method for manufacturing a pleated filter material from a thermally bonded non-woven fabric, comprising :

forming a single fibrous web from undrawn and drawn synthetic fibers; pre-heating the fibrous web;

calendering the single fibrous web in a single calendering step, wherein during the single calendering step, the undrawn fibers in the single fibrous web are